DEMOCRATIC
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READY TO NEGOTIATE

Grotewohl's Government Programme

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready and willing to negotiate directly with the Governments of Britain, France, and the United States on all questions connected with the stationing of foreign troops in Berlin, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl announced on December 8th.

The Prime Minister made the announcement while presenting his new cabinet and his government programme to the People's Chamber, the parliament of Democratic Germany. A complete list of the new cabinet will be found on page 199.

Here are some of the main points from Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl's speech:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic supports, point for point, the declaration made by Soviet Prime Minister Khrushchov on the German problem. If the western powers had complied with the principles of the Potsdam Aggreement, as the Soviet Union did, there would not be any German problem today. Instead we should see, in the centre of Europe, a united democratic German state which would threaten nobody, but which would contribute towards European peace.

"The facts with regard to the status of Berlin are perfectly clear. Berlin is part of the German Democratic Republic. There was never any 'fifth occupation zone' in Germany. Berlin always remained part of what was then the Soviet-occupied zone of Germany, even after the western powers had been given a share of the joint occupation of Berlin.

"The goal of this joint occupation of Berlin was democratisation, and the prevention of a restoration of the forces of German imperialism and militarism in Berlin.

"Since the troops of the western powers have not been used for this purpose, and since there is no prospect of a change in this respect, these troops are illegally on the territory of the German Democratic Republic. By failing to fulfil their pledges as occupying powers, the western powers have deprived themselves of all legal basis for remaining in Berlin . . .

"We are in favour of the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Berlin, not only in order to normalise the Berlin situation, but also because the existence of a demilitarised West Berlin Free City would have a favourable effect on developments in the whole of Germany. The peaceful solution of the Berlin question would assist in the peaceful solution of the German question.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to negotiate with the governments concerned on all questions connected with the stationing of

(cont. on next page)

EARLY EXILE?

Chancellor Adenauer to Press Chief Eckardt: "That talk with De Gaulle wasn't much use, but he had some useful tips on forming a government-in-exile"

(From "Simplicissimus", West Germany)

foreign troops in Berlin. We are ready for such negotiations and for all negotiations which serve the relaxation of tension and the cause of peace. The Government of the German Democratic Republic has no intention of pursuing a policy of blackmail; on the other hand we do not intend to abandon our just claims under the pressure of blackmail.

Atom Arms in West Germany

"The extremely dangerous policy of reactionary circles in West Germany finds its expression in the equipment of the Bonn Army with atomic weapons and rockets ... and the fact that West Germany is now preparing to make nuclear weapons itself.

"In the past we have often been accused of painting too black a picture of development in West Germany, and exaggerating the danger. Today all the nations of Europe can see that we were unfortunately right ... At the coming meeting of the NATO Council the West German Government will do all in its power to strangle the Rapacki Plan for an atom-free zone in Europe. The Government of the German Democratic Republic makes an urgent appeal to the governments of such NATO countries as Britain, France, Belgium, Holland Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and Italy, all of which have suffered twice in this century from the warlike policy of German imperialism, not to permit any measures which will further increase tension in Germany and Europe. We call on the governments of these countries to oppose the nuclear armament of West Germany, and to support the creation of an atom-free zone.

Peace Treaty for Germany

"We believe that negotiations on a peace treaty with Germany are realistic and possible at this moment, and we have the earnest desire for such negotiations.

"Such a peace treaty would settle the military status of the whole of Germany; it would lay down the strength and armament of German armed forces for defensive purposes. This would mean an end to atomic armament in West Germany, and West German membership in NATO; it would also mean that the German Democratic Republic would leave the Warsaw Treaty.

Recognition for Democratic Germany

"There can be no doubt that normal diplomatic relations will very soon be established between the German Democratic Republic and a number of capitalist states. This is a natural development which no power can halt.

"Our Government is ready to establish friendly relations with all states on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty ... We are particularly interested in extending relations with those states which have recently liberated themselves from imperialism, and which are struggling under great difficulties to stabilise their liberty. The Government regards normal diplomatic relations with these countries as a contribution to the maintence of peace in Europe, and to the reunification of Germany"

THE OLD RECORD

1936 Version

"Germany declares that she requires a powerful army for defence. Why should any foreign nation doubt her sincerity? If the strength of the German Wehrmacht can help prevent the Soviets supporting their cunning propaganda abroad with military force, Germany will render a service to civilisation."

Duncan Sandys M. P., in the "European Review" December 1936

1958 Version

"The danger to peace comes now not from the Germans but from the Russians ... We are glad to see the progress of the new German army ... The more efficient her army can be made the better it will be for the peace and safety of Europe."

Rt. Hon. Duncan Sandys, Minister of Defence, House of Commons, December 2nd 1958

"A - ROCKETS PROVOCATION" — Social Democrats

The West German Ministry of Defence has deliberately provoked a worsening of relations between the East and West by purchasing "Hercules" atomic rockets from the USA, the official Social Democratic Press Service stated on December 5th.

"This decision was taken without the knowledge of the Defence Committee of the Federal Parliament" the Press Service stated. "The meaning of this provocative step is clear. It is part of the psychological warfare offensive, and is aimed at accustoming public opinion to the fact that the Federal Army is equipped with atomic weapons. Seen against the backgrount of the Berlin crisis and the Geneva Conference, this is a deliberate provocation, which can only worsen the relations between East and West ... A policy of this sort must have the result of isolating the Federal Republic from all peaceable forces in the world."

INSTEAD OF A LEADER

Instead of writing our own leading article on the German question, we reprint this week a few paragraphs from an article by American commentator Walter Lippmann, published in the "New York Herald Tribune" on December 6th:

"An Allied reply (to the Soviet Note on Berlin) which took the line of a negotiation between the two Germanys, would pose the basic question as to what are the practical conditions of a negotiated settlement — and what are the possibilities of an all-European security system.

"I realise, of course, that a reply of this kind requires a serious modification of Dr Adenauer's policy of the non-recognition of the East German state ... Nevertheless, it is a sound way to approach the German question, and it would have powerful support in the Western world, including Western Germany itself.

"Indeed. it is hard to see how there can be any successful approach which does not begin with and recognise the facts of life — which are that there are now two Germanys and two Berlins, and that only slowly, over a long period of time, and in the climate of national freedom after the foreign troops have departed, can the two Germanys become integrated again."

QUITE CANDIDLY:
Which Team Do You Prefer?

Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic

Prime Minister: Otto Grotewohl, SED. Born 1894. Printer. Former Social Democratic member of Reichstag. Anti-nazi underground, twice arrested.

First Deputy Prime Minister: Walter Ulbricht, SED. Born 1893. Joiner. Anti-nazi underground, emigration to Soviet Union.

DPM and Health Minister: Max Sefrin, CDU. Born 1913. Business man. General Secretary of Christian Democratic Union.

Deputy Prime Minister: Dr Hans Loch, LDP. Born 1898. Lawyer. Forced to emigrate by nazi persecution.

Deputy Prime Minister: Paul Scholz, DBD. Born 1902. Agricultural worker. Spent most of nazi period in prison and concentration camp.

DPM and Foreign Minister: Dr Lothar Bolz, NDP. Born 1903. Lawyer. Stricken from rolls by nazis in 1933, emigration to Poland and Soviet Union.

DPM and Chairman of Planning Commission: Bruno Leuschner, SED. Born 1910. Office worker. 1936—1945 nazi prison and concentration camp.

DPM and Defence Minister: Willi Stoph, SED. Born 1914. Bricklayer. Anti-nazi underground work.

DPM and External Trade Minister: Heinrich Rau, SED. Born 1899. Metal worker. International Brigade commander in Spain, nazi concentration camp.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: Kurt Gregor, SED. Born 1907. Civil engineer.

Interior Minister: Karl Maron, SED. Born 1903. Metal worker. Anti-nazi underground, emigration to Soviet Union.

Finance Minister: Willy Rumpf, SED. Born 1903. Office worker. Anti-nazi underground, 5 years prison and concentration camp.

Education Minister: Professor Alfred Lemnitz, SED. Born 1905. Compositor. Anti-nazi underground, 9 years prison and concentration camp.

State Security Minister: Erich Mielke, SED. Born 1907. Dispatcher. Fough with the International Brigade in Spain.

Agriculture Minister: Hans Reichelt, DBD. Born 1925. Served as private in Wehrmacht, Soviet P. O. W camp.

Supply Minister: Curt Wach, SED. Born 1906. Shoemaker. Spent entire nazi period in concentration camp.

Cabinet of the German Federal Republic

Chancellor: Konrad Adenauer, CDU. Born 1876. Lawyer. Received full pension during entire nazi period.

Foreign Minister: Heinrich von Brentano, CDU. Born 1904. Lawyer, practiced law unhindered throughout nazi period.

Minister of Interior: Gerhard Schroeder, CDU. Born 1910. Lawyer. Member of Hitler's brown-shirted storm troops.

Defence Minister: Franz Josef Strauss, CDU. Born 1915. Teacher. "Political education officer" in nazi Wehrmacht.

Economics Minister: Ludwig Erhard, CDU. Born 1897. Professor of Political Economy. Economic research expert during nazi period.

Finance Minister: Franz Etzel, CDU. Born 1902. Lawyer. Served as officer in nazi Wehrmacht.

Treasury Minister: Hermann Lindrath, CDU. Born 1896. Civil servant. Storm trooper and member 3,997,157 of nazi party.

Minister of Justice: Fritz Schaeffer, CDU. Born 1888. Lawyer. Sacked in 1945 by American authorities as "nazi sympathiser".

Minister of Agriculture: Heinrich Luebke, CDU. Born 1894. Surveyor. City official of nazi administration in Berlin.

Labour Minister: Theodor Blank, CDU. Born 1905. Trade union official. Served as officer in nazi Wehrmacht.

Minister of Transport: Hans Christoph Seebohm, DP. Born 1903. Civil engineer. Enriched himself during nazi period by grabbing factories in occupied territory.

Post Minister: Richard Stuecklen, CDU. Born 1916. Civil engineer. Served as officer in nazi Wehrmacht.

Housing Minister: Paul Luecke, CDU. Born 1914. Civil engineer. Served as officer in nazi Wehrmacht.

German Democratic Republic

Post Minister: Friedrich Burmeister, CDU. Born 1888. Postal official. Expelled from civil service by nazis.

Transport Minister: Erwin Kramer, SED. Born 1902. Railwayman. International Brigade in Spain. emigration in Soviet Union.

Building Minister: Ernst Scholz, SED. Born 1913. Worker. Fought in International Brigade in Spain and French Maquis.

Culture Minister: Alexander Abusch, SED. Born 1902. Journalist. Emigration in France and Mexico during nazi period.

Justice Minister: Hilde Benjamin, SED. Born 1902. Lawyer. Anti-nazi underground. Husband murdered in concentration camp.

State Secretary for Higher Education: Dr Wilhelm Girnus, SED. Born 1906. Journalist. 10 years in nazi prisons and concentration camps.

Chairman, State Control Commission: Ernst Wabra, SED. Born 1907. Metal worker. Spent the entire nazi period in concentration camp.

(SED denotes Socialist Unity Party; CDU Christian Democratic Union; LDP Liberal Democratic Party; NDP National Democratic Party; DBD Democratic Peasant Party.)

German Federal Republic

Refugee Minister: Theodor Oberlaender, CDU. Born 1905. Agricultural expert. Major of Hitler's storm troops.

Minister for Atomic Power: Siegfried Balke, CDU. Born 1902. Chemical engineer, company director.

Minister for All-German Questions: Ernst Lemmer, CDU. Born 1898. Journalist. Worked as newspaperman in Berlin throughout nazi period.

Minister for Family Affairs: Franz Josef Wuermeling, CDU. Born 1900. Civil servant. Prominent industrialist during nazi period.

Bundesrat Minister: Hans Joachim von Merkatz, DP. Born 1905, Lawyer. Member of nazi party, organised espionage in Latin America.

(CDU denotes member of the West German Christian Democratic Union; DP denotes member of the Germany Party.)

"LET'S LINK HANDS"

Socialist Unity Appeal to Social Democrats

The Socialist Unity Party, largest party in the German Democratic Republic, has appealed to the West German Social Democratic Party to join in measures to bring the two German states closer to each other. "Although we have differences on a number of basic questions, we should present a common front in at least one question, that of the struggle against atomic arms and German militarism" the letter stated.

The open letter, published on December 5th, stated in part:

"We know that the Central Board of the Social Democratic Party has declared its opposition to the atomic arming of West Germany, and its support for an atom-free zone. It is obvious that agreements on these points can only be reached in an atmosphere of relaxed tension. To attain this relaxation it is necessary to remove the cancerous tumour which has developed in West Berlin as the result of the 'front-line' policy.

"The Note of the Soviet Union proposing the establishment of a peaceful status for West Berlin has started a great discussion in Berlin, in Germany, and throughout the world. The majority of people in all parts of the world who have expressed their opinion have taken the point of view that a turning point has been reached . . .

"We welcome the fact that more and more Social Democrats are taking a stand against the cold war policy, and for a realistic policy of understanding with the German Democratic Republic . . . Everything today depends upon the action of the working class in the whole of Germany.

"We believe that following the numerous discussions between middle-class politicians (from West Germany) and the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, the time has come for a public exchange of opinions between the workers' organisations . . .

"We propose a public exchange of opinions in the working class and between leaders of working class organisations on the following points:

1. The present situation and the danger presented once again by German militarism.
2. Measures to remove the centre of war provocation in West Berlin.
3. The question of a peace treaty with Germany.
4. Measures to bring the two German states nearer together, the formation of a confederation with the aim of German reunification in a peaceable democratic state.

"In order to attain such a public exchange of opinions, we propose an exchange of visits between delegations of the Socialist Unity Party, the Social Democratic Party, the trade unions and other mass organisations, at all levels. We believe that it would be useful to arrange exchange publication of articles by leading figures of these organisations in their newspapers and magazines."

BRITISH CENSORS CODDLE NAZI GENERAL SPEIDEL

The British Board of Film Censors has refused grant a certificate for public showing to "Operation Teutonic Sword", the East German film which throws light upon the life and crimes of nazi General Speidel, now commander of NATO land forces in central Europe.

This is what the Conservative London "Evening Standard" said about the ban in a leading article on December 2nd:

"General Speidel, once one of Hitler's commanders and now head of the NATO land forces in central Europe, has found unexpected allies among the members, of the British Board of Film Censors. The board has refused a certificate to an East German propaganda film, Operation Teutonic Sword, which sets out to discredit General Speidel.

"Mr John Trevelyan, the board's secretary, is emphatic that this is not a political censorship. The board objects to the nature, not the origin, of the attack: 'It is a vicious personal attack on a living person without giving his side of the case.'

"That is an accurate enough description of the film. The object of Operation Teutonic Sword is to stir up hostility to General Speidel and the West German Government. It accuses General Speidel of complicity in a pre-war political assassination and attacks his record in occupied France.

"None of the evidence the film produces is conclusive. Certainly much more would have to be known before its allegations could be accepted.

"But it is difficult to see how this justifies the Board's ban. Just whom are Mr Trevelyan and his colleagues trying to protect? The British cinema-going public can surely be trusted to distinguish between propaganda and fact. And General Speidel himself could seek redress from the courts of law should he wish to rebut the charges.

"That would be the procedure if the allegations had been made in a newspaper or in a book. By imposing its ban the Board is in effect prejudging the issue.

"The past record of a German general now commanding British troops is a matter of intense and legitimate interest in this country. Operation Teutonic Sword may be biased: it only presents the case for the prosecution. But that is an argument for calling on the defence to present its evidence, not for trying to stifle the controversy. The jurisdiction of the British Board of Film Censors does not extend to the facts of history. And any attempt to ban films attacking living persons, however tainted the source, is to introduce an unacceptable principle into the censorship."

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The film "Operation Teutonic Sword" has been banned from public showing in Britain, but it is available on 16 mm and 35 mm film for showing to private groups from Plato Films, 18 Greek St., London W. 1.

All the evidence against Speidel given in the film was reprinted in a special number of GERMAN REPORT this summer. Copies of this "Speidel Special" are still available, and we shall be glad to send them to any reader interested. Our address is:

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Germany

BIRTHDAY FOR PIONEERS

By Joan Becker

My young son and daughter were rushing all over the place the first fortnight in December. The Young Pioneers' children's organisation were enjoying somewhat protracted 10th anniversary celebrations and an astonishing number of people got together to make it worth remembering. Teachers, pioneer group leaders and parents all over the Republic helped school groups to rehearse little programmes of plays, recitations and music which they put on in their own schools and in their patron factories.

In Berlin the best group in each district took it in turn to put on a 30-minute programme nearly every day during the traditional Christmas fair on Marx Engels Platz. The Berlin Radio was responsible for one of the biggest items — a long children's variety programme by 250 pioneers from all over the city in the big variety theatre, Friedrichstadt Palace, which seats 3,000. My son's group prodly performed there, after many hours of rehearsal in Berlin Radio House, so that the whole programme went off without a hitch.

Exciting films like "Battleship Potemkin" were brought out of the archives for the older children, hundreds of them went to see a famous Soviet circus and a new play called "It happened in 1918", about young Berliners in the German Revolution of 1918 to 1919, written by Wera and Klaus Kuechenmeister, two young playwrights who had worked with Bertolt Brecht.

Tickets for all the more important shows were distributed in recognition of good marks at school, the biggest rag, bone, paper and scrap metal collections, tree planting, help at harvest and election time, house to house collections for the Peace Fund (one school collected 1,400 marks during the autumn term), or picking berries and medicinal herbs. My daughter's class got tickets for the play and for "Battleship Potemkin" as third prize for their rag and bone collecting.

Patron factories really went to town with presents for their pioneers' birthday; one of our patrons is the Ministry of Communications and they have always been most generous with reduced fares and places in their holiday homes. This Christmas holiday the best class in our school are spending ten days in a beautiful holiday home in Brandenburg — I know it is good because my son spent last Easter there. Other presents given by school patrons were books, tools, geometry sets, materials for

building model aeroplanes and ships, musical instruments and help for the whole year in organising young pioneer's activities. One school got two radios in which only the main parts were put together; the rest can be done by the young pioneers themselves.

The German History Museum made room for a Young Pioneer exhibition which showed its historical background, from the workers' children's organisation during the Weimar period through the nazi period down to the present day.

Things reached a climax with a torch-light parade — more than 30,000 young pioneers turned out for this — and the big pioneer variety show on December 13th and finished off with a bang on December 14th, when there was an all-day ice skating display in the huge Werner Seelenbinder Hall, which holds, 4,000 spectators. The Berlin television transmitted most of the long programme of skating and dancing and an exciting ice hockey match between two junior clubs.

Between ice shows there were all sorts of sideshows, competitions and a hot mid-day meal — some job for over 4,000 hungry youngsters!

After all this, orginary Christmas festivities began to go a little flat. Since Christmas tends to be a little exaggerated here, this was no doubt a blessed relief to many harried parents.

A BRITISH LOOK AT POLYTECHNICAL EDUCATION

(On these pages we reproduce a very interesting article from the British "Times Educational Supplement" of November 28th on polytechnical education in the German Democratic Republic.)

Twenty to seven at the factory gates—this is how one day in every week now begins for many of the top classes in East German schools. On Tuesday I joined class 10b (the equivalent of a fifth form, science stream) from a grammar school, the Klement Gottwald Oberschule, in East Berlin. "Their" factory is the State electric railway repair works, Reichsbahnausbesserungswerk Berlin-Schöneweide, known to Berliners as "R.A.W." Nine classes in all, from the ninth school year (our fourth form, aged 14-15) to the twelfth (upper sixth) go there regularly. A parallel set on the modern languages side go to work on a State farm in Deutsch-Wusterhausen.

The 35 young things—25 boys and 10 girls—with whom I spent the morning, were taking part in an educational experiment which embraces all children from the age of 12 upwards in East Germany. German writers on education have been saying for the past 100 years that education would be more realistic and would reach higher levels if it were more closely linked to the everyday life of society, though they have always opposed child labour organized for the sake of the labour.

German education, like that in other Continental countries, has nevertheless been very academic, specially in grammar schools; the 18-year-old school-leaver who could only consider the university as the next step, becoming in a few years the graduate who could only consider a doctorate, with a professorship to follow later, has been well known. More seriously, a certain division — not unknown in England — has developed between "workers" and "intellectuals" in general, leading to distrust. East Germans have been trying to tackle this division.

Some two years ago they began by introducing more "manual work" of an up-to-date kind, such as use of hand- and machine- tools, study of internal combustion engines, and acquaintance with industrial processes and modern agricultural practice, into all schools. Technical drawing was also included for the last primary year (age 13-14), and for all classes above this a week or fortnight of pratical work every year on farm or in factory.

This year's step, which came into force on September 1, was the "Educational Day in Socialist Production". There is complete agreemen that practical activities must be made to raise, not lower the standards of academic work and knowledge. In the huge machineshops of R.A.W., among the railway coaches, it was evident that my fifth-formers were learning, among other things, a surprising amount about mathematics and science. The polytechnic advisory committee (a joint organization of the factory and school staffs) had drawn up a detailed plan for the first two years, and an outline for the next two years. Every pupil is expected to learn systematically the use of tools and machines in actual production, and at the same time to link productive work with school subjects.

The quiet, capable mathematics mistress who had come with her class to the factory, and who discussed it with me, has two main functions there. One is naturally to supervise each pupil in his or her working place and to keep a steady check on progress, punctuality, and general attitude. The other is to look for ways in which she can use the children's factory experiences in mathematics lessons, and school mathematics in the factory. She said that the workers at the bench gave her a great deal of help, and indeed we found foremen and skilled workers keen to impart knowledge to "their" pupils and to visitors. They were also prepared to hold back with surprising patience while the young coped with stiff nuts or with the wiring of lighting circuits.

The pupils were definitely not there to do the unskilled "dirty work" — no fifth-formers were pushing barrows, sweeping up, or making tea. But the curly-haired girl in the blue track-suit who was dismantling, cleaning, reassembling, and testing switches had certainly got her hands black, and was pleased about it. She said that the most interesting job she had yet done was to build up variable resistances from carbon rings, and she seemed to know what she was talking about. The young man in charge of the next bench gave his view that girls got a more thorough grasp of electrical apparatus than boys in the end, because they began by knowing that they did not know, so asked more questions. Some of the other pupils appeared to be keen enough on the actual job, but uninformed or incurious about the basic principles behind it.

In a section full of metal-cutting machines we came upon a tightly packed group intent on a serious discussion. Three senior men and two boys—a tall youth and a tough good-looking blond, were gathered round a sheet of paper, headed "important" by the office, on which the boys had proposed in 10 lines of careful writing that the shaping-machines could be made twice as effective by being set to cut into the metal on the return stroke as well as on the

forward one. Two young discoverers they were, Gerd Fabian and Wolfgang Pawlik.

The engineer in charge explained exactly why their idea was unworkable, and incidentally showed his acquaintance with the school mathematics syllabus. The boys were downcast but convinced, and the foreman encouraged them to try again. These boys are part of a huge experiment in cooperation between school and workers. This is important in a country where a large proportion of the men with experience are over 50, and the middle generations are missing.

There have naturally been many difficulties, and some remain to be solved. Several of the largest and most important factories were at first reluctant to take any schoolchildren, their main reason being that it would hinder produktion. Work at R.A.W., for example, was slowed down considerably at first, but we were told that there was now a slight profit in favour of the school. The workers have been very ready to help; a woodworker who had girls in his section compared the present scheme favourably with the old days, when "you only knew what a job was like from what you heard in the street".

A different but no less serious difficulty, which will have occurred to all teachers, is that of the school timetable, already full to bursting-point without the addition of a whole day on production. The problem has been left to the individual men and women heads to solve. Where these are good and imaginative organizers it has turned out well, in other cases badly. The weekly paper of the teachers' union publishes good and bad examples. At the worst, lessons now go on between 7 a. m. and 4.40 pm. for at least one day a week. A good example shows the normal German six-day week (six lessons a day and a half-hour snack break between 8 a.m. and 1.30) with three added periods after school lunch.

This particular grammar school, in Königswusterhausen, manages to give a day off each week to a woman teacher with a young child, and to one with a mother who needs help, and a half-day to masters taking university courses. The Ministry statement is that staff are to have time "to prepare thoroughly, to continue their own studies, and still to have some free time".

The attitude of the children to their school work is said to be more alert than before, specially working-class children in the country, who "begin to see the point of school" now it is linked up with real life. I asked a lad in blue overalls and glasses, who was dismantling the mounting of the railway-coach strip-lighting, what he thought. He said he had not studied all the physics of his factory job yet in lessons, but he was sure it would be useful experience when they came to it. His complaint was the early start in the morning, but, as he philosophically said, "the grown-ups do it every day, and at least we get less homework to make up for it".

The pupils work in the factory for four hours, with a snack break and mugs of coffee. Then at 11 a.m. they begin two lessons on the factory premises, in a lecture hall. The subject of these lessons is the new one, "Introduction to socialist production in industry and agriculture". There are as yet no textbooks and only outline syllabuses, so that those responsible can work experimentally. The main aim is to show the older pupils how "their" factory or farm works, how it has developed since 1945, and how it fits into the current plans for production. These lessons may be given by teachers or by factory staff by mutual arrangement.

At the midday break the pupils have their meal with the workers in the works canteen. For this they pay the cost of the food. 10d. a day, as the workers do. During any slack time at the bench, or as homework, all the pupils keep books of week-by-week reports on their activities. Some of those I saw were outstanding for the care given to the drawings and descriptions, and for expressions of opinion showing how much the young people's attitude to manual work and to adult life had already been changed by their experience in construction at the bench. The Zeiss factory in Jena has just reported on the "outstanding quality of the pupils' journals". This factory, which employs mainly highly skilled technicians, comments that the school pupils are not regarded as production workers.

By no means all parents are convinced of the advantages of the new scheme. It is significant that there is enormously increased interest this year in the parents' committees, and heavier voting than before. The meetings are discussing principles and details, seeing the new documentary films of schools in production, and comparing the new conditions with the old. One girl told me, "My parents say, 'Now you really know how bread is earned'."

In R.A.W. no pupil is allowed to do heavy work or take part in welding or grinding. At their first visit the pupils were taken round the works and shown all danger-spots. The mathematics mistress told me that they had had no accidents in the seven weeks so far, in spite of the nature of the works.

Certainly the youngsters were using tools with assurance and apparent satisfaction. A lad of 15, son of a professor of palaeontology, was cheerfully dismantling window-frames in the railway coaches. Two boys on a power drill were concentrating on speed with accuracy. A girl stopping cracks in panelling said she liked it for a change, but that as neither she nor her "tutor" knew what the filling-paste was made of, they were both going to ask the Meister.

Overhead moved the enormous travelling cranes — often driven by women — and the noise of engineering processes echoed in the huge halls. A slim girl in a green track suit was sitting quietly making her own notes from a technical textbook on the Berlin electric railways, while another with a pony-tail was learning how electric motors are built, so that she could later join in with the winding. A boy polishing belting drums told me that since coming to R.A.W. he had changed his mind about a career, and now wanted to do electrical engineering. Meanwhile the mathematics mistress went round asking section leaders for short reports on the work of their pupils, and incidentally checking up on the odd case of lateness, over which she says the workers are good educators.

Other members of staff from the Klement Gottwald Oberschule to accompany pupils to this factory are the physics and chemistry specialists and other mathematics teachers. They, too, find material for their school syllabuses as a result. Some 300 boys and girls work there regularly. Their form masters and mistresses bring them if the timetable can stand it. They say they learn a great deal about their pupils there, as well as about productive work. The fears many of them were expressing in the summer holidays — of overstrain and lack of knowledge — are being overcome.

The boys and girls in R.A.W. were rather uncritically enthusiastic. One lad, asked what he liked best, said, "Oh, any job here". But great claims are being made for the new educational methods — to educate children to appreciate and respect physical work and the workers, to advance the children's collective behaviour (whatever that may be), conscientiousness, orderliness, accuracy, and perseverance in the face of difficulties. The raising of their standards of knowledge and the development of their practical aptitudes and skills are also expected. It is clearly an educational experiment that must be watched with interest in a technological and, one hopes, still human world.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

There have been quite a lot of odd and peculiar news items about Berlin in the western press in the past few weeks, but I think the prize for the oddest must go to the Paris newspaper "France Soir" which reported on November 14th that the "Pankow Government" intended to move its official capital from Pankow to Berlin.

It is difficult to know where to start in unravelling the glaring lack of information which marks this news item, for a quick look at any good map would have shown the journalist responsible that Pankow is in fact a district of Berlin, not very far from the centre of the city, so that it is rather like saying that someone was moving from Kensington to London, or from Manhattan to New York.

Misconception

But the news item at least gives us a good opportunity for explaining this misconception about the "Pankow Government", which has recently begun to spread into the columns of newspapers which really should know better, like the London "New Statesman".

To get to the bottom of the matter we have to go back to year 1949, when the two German states were constituted. The West German Federal Republic set up its headquarters in the sleepy little Rhineland town of Bonn, hitherto mainly known as Beethoven's birthplace, and rather an odd place to put a capital city.

One month later, the German Democratic Republic was founded, and quite naturally it established its capital in Berlin, which has been the capital of Germany as long as that country has had a central government at all. The government was constituted right bang in the centre of Berlin, and in the nine years which have passed since then the main government offices have always been situated in the centre of Berlin.

Cold Warriors

For the journalistic warriors of the cold war, this was a serious blow: if they referred to the Government of the German Democratic Republic as the "Berlin Government" this would, they felt, confer prestige upon it. So some bright spark hit on the idea of giving it the name of a not particularly alluring district of East Berlin, and calling it the "Pankow Government". Despite considerable research, I have not been able to find out when or where the phrase actually originated, but it was soon adopted by the entire West German press.

The explanation given was that the President of the German Democratic Republic had his official residence in Pankow, but even this assumption rested upon a bit of very rocky geography, since the official residence of the President was then, and has remained since, the neighbouring borough of Niederschoenhausen.

Just to make sure whether there was even the tiniest little bit of justification for calling the Berlin Government the "Pankow Government" I have just been leafing through the reference books: I thought that the Department of Weights and Measures, or the State Geological Commission might actually have their offices in Pankow. But I was disappointed; Pankow is a mainly residential district and there are no government offices there at all.

Of course, as a bit of tit-for-tat, the papers of the Democratic Republic could start calling the British Government the "Hackney Government", since Hackney lies at about the same point on the map of London as Pankow does on the map of Berlin, but it would be very childish. And the same goes for "Pankow Government". "New Statesman" and other offenders, please note.

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And now to quite another question. A few weeks ago, I asked readers if they could supply me with the full text of a war-time song by Noel Coward entitled "Don't Let's Be Beastly to the Germans". Replies soon came pouring in — thanks for the quick cooperation — and they confirmed my recollection that Mr Noel Coward had shown a remarkable sense of prophecy when he wrote the song about 1941.

I think that a few short extracts will show you what I mean:

"Don't let's be beastly to the Germans
When our victory is ultimately won . . .
Let's give them full air parity
And treat the rats with charity
But don't let's be beastly to the Hun"

(This is a good point to recall that West Germany's new Luftwaffe, marked with the old militarist sign of the Iron Cross, is commanded by Hitler's Luftwaffe General Kammhuber, who launched unlimited air warfare against western Europe on May 10th 1940.)

"Don't let's be beastly to the Germans
For you can't deprive a gangster of his gun.
Though they've been a little naughty
To the Czechs and Poles and Dutsch,
I don't suppose those countries
Really minded very much . . .
Let's soften their defeat again
And build their blasted fleet again
But don't let's be beastly to the Hun."

"Bomb Us All"

(Pause for reflection on this item from the influential West German newspaper "Rheinische Post" of September 12th 1958: "The NATO leadership is pressing for an increase in the strength of the (West)German naval forces in the Baltic above the figures hitherto fixed. Negotiations are expected shortly on a removal of the ban on West German production of heavy mines, atom-powered vessels, naval guns and torpedoes".)

"Don't let's be beastly to the Germans
When the age of peace and plenty has begun.
We must send them steel and oil and coal
And everything they need,
For their peaceable intentions
Can always be guaranteed . . .
Let's let them feel they're swell again
And bomb us all to hell again
But don't let's be beastly to the Hun."

"Hitlerite Huns"

(This verse needs no comment. Remember that the West German Wehrmacht will soon have atomic weapons, unless you do something to stop it. And just in passing, if any reader should feel uncomfortable at our reproduction of the word "Hun" to characterise the German militarists, I would like to remind him of the joint Four Power Declaration on German atrocities signed in Moscow on October 30th 1943 which states: "The recoiling Hitlerite Huns are redoubling their ruthless cruelties.")

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